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November 13, 2015

Keith Wallace, Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: 2015 IRWM Grant Solicitation Draft Funding Recommendations

Dear Mr. Wallace:

On behalf of the Regional Water Management Foundation (RWMF), I would like to offer comments on the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations.

Although I am disappointed that the RWMF did not receive additional funding, I support the California Department of Water Resources recommendations. Specifically, I support the partial (25%) funding award of \$1,234,254 to assist in implementing three important water supply projects contained in the RWMF proposal.

By way of background, the Santa Cruz region relies entirely on rainfall, surface runoff, and groundwater infiltration occurring within local watersheds. No water is purchased from state or federal sources or imported from outside the area. Ensuring the sustainability and reliability of this limited water supply has led RWMF and its partners to pursue some of the most progressive water sustainability and reliability programs in the country. Funding awarded under the current IRWM grant proposal will be leveraged to advance three high-priority projects: the creation of mid-county hexavalent chromium treatment facility to produce safer drinking water; the replacing of aging Santa Cruz City water supply wells to improve supply reliability, and; construction of a recycled water plant in Davenport (north county) to benefit an economically disadvantaged community further burdened by recurring boil water notices.

I appreciate that DWR has a rigorous proposal review process and has expended considerable time and effort in making its funding recommendations. Your efforts are to be commended.

Thank you for considering my comments. If you have any further questions, please contact my Santa Cruz District Office at (831) 425-1503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Stone".

Mark Stone
Assemblymember
Twenty-Ninth District